



June 2, 2016

John Mannix, Assistant Superintendent, Operations  
Monroe School District  
200 E Fremont St  
Monroe, WA 98272-2336

Devlin Piplic, Director of Facilities  
Monroe School District  
200 E Fremont St  
Monroe, WA 98272-2336

Karen Rosencrans, Principal  
Sky Valley Education Center  
351 Short Columbia St.  
Monroe, WA 98272

Subject: RESTRICTED ACCESS TO ANNEX BUILDING  
School Environmental Health and Safety Complaint Investigation  
Name of School: Sky Valley Education Center  
Location: 351 Short Columbia Street, Monroe, Washington 98272

Dear Mr. Mannix, Mr. Piplic and Ms. Rosencrans:

Our office received an electronic response from Monroe Public Schools on May 26, 2016 regarding our ongoing complaint investigation at Sky Valley Education Center. Since December 1, 2015, over 90 parents, teachers and children have reported illness that they associate with the building.

All of the rooms that were retested during the PCB air sampling resulted in levels higher than originally reported.

- Room A: 630 ng/m3
- Room C: 450 ng/m3
- Room C/A Prep: 480 ng/m3
- Room D: 430 ng/m3
- Room F: 210 ng/m3
- Annex Hallway East: 390 ng/m3
- Annex Hallway West: 390 ng/m3
- Girl's bathroom: 180 ng/m3
- Room #11: 260 ng/m3

WAC 246-366-140 states, "the existence of unsafe conditions which present a potential hazard to occupants of the school are in violation of these regulations." Effective May 27, 2016, Monroe Public Schools has closed Room A. The elevated PCB air sampling levels above the EPA Rfd warranted a closure of that room.

Irrespective as to the reason as to why the PCB levels have increased, exposure must be limited to the most vulnerable student population while further remediation and air scrubbing activities are on-going.

In addition, The Snohomish Health District is requiring that the remainder of the Annex Building and Room #11 be inaccessible to **children under 12 and pregnant mothers** until follow-up testing is completed to show that PCB levels are in an acceptable range. Since PCB levels were noted to be close to 500 ng/m3 in a few areas of Annex, it is best practices to limit access to the rest of the Annex Building and Room #11 by only allowing children 12 and older in the Building for the last few weeks of school.

It is unacceptable that there are still light fixtures that have not been cleaned in the Office, Technology, Gyms and Office area. To avoid additional closure requirements, please provide documentation that this work has been done, including additional documentation as specified in the May 25, 2016 letter, by June 9, 2016.

The Corrective Action Plan regarding PCB-containing caulk and paint should be finalized with the EPA. Please provide documentation by June 9, 2016 that staff and students have been notified to not touch or come in contact with the PCB-containing caulk or PCB-containing paint.

Additional mold abatement, roof repair, unit ventilator cleaning and carpet removal must be addressed by an August 31, 2016 walk-through of the school.

We would like to schedule a site visit on Monday June 6, 2016 at 10 a.m. to ensure that the Annex has been closed to younger students and proper signage posted at Room #11.

I am available to answer any questions at 425.339.8781.

Sincerely,



Jefferson Ketchel, MA, RS  
Director, Environmental Health Division

JK/AZ:jg

cc: Nancy Bernard, Washington State Department of Health  
Dr. Fredrika Smith, Superintendent, Monroe School District No. 103  
Michelle Mullen, EPA Region 10  
Nancy Beaudet, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit  
Lauren Jenks, Washington State Department of Health  
Gary Goldbaum, Snohomish Health District